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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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I have been in Information Services for all of my professional career. I started in computer hardware maintenance in the 80's and progressed to being a Systems Architect today.

As such, I have a historical view of Microsoft, their business practices, and their attitude toward anyone that isn't them (including the government).

As such, I have established a few points-of-view regarding them.

1. Microsoft dislikes any technology they do not directly control, and either will be that technogy outright, or will do anything in their power destroy it. Cases in point:

    a. Stacker
    b. OpenGL
    c. Netscape Communicator
    d. Any OS other than their own on the same hardware platform

2. Microsoft feels above the law. Whenever Microsoft has been charged with breaking the law, they have a history of litigating it to the point that the the charging party gives in (settlement or buyout), or the outcome of such a lawsuit is irrelevant (Netscape).

3. Whenever threatened in the public, they often hide behind the defense that punishing them would hurt "innovation".

The truth is that Microsoft has done VERY little that could be considered innovation. In fact, Microsoft actively stifles innovation. Again, refer to my first point. Practically every technology Microsoft pushes existed BEFORE Microsoft implemented them.

Examples:

Source Vendor	Product	Microsoft Implementation
Apple	Macintosh	Windows
Apple	Quicktime	Media Player
Netscape	Communicator	Internet Explorer
IBM	Plug And Play (AIX)	Plug And Play
AOL	Instant Messenger	MSN Instant Messenger

What is laughable about the above is that Microsoft sounded off about AOL being a monopoly with Instant Messenger. I found that very hypocritical, and typical of how they operate.

So, if Microsoft does NOT innovate, then how come they are the largest software company in the world today? Simple, they have consistently